

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the title with the following amended title:

~~VARIANTS OF THE EXTRACELLULAR DOMAIN OF BCMA AND USES THEREOF~~  
BCMA POLYPEPTIDES AND USES THEREOF

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1 with the following amended paragraph:

~~This application claims benefit from United States Provisional Application No. 60/540,271, filed January 29, 2004, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.~~

This application is a National Stage Application of PCT/US2004/025247, filed August 4, 2004, which is the International Application of Serial No. 60/540,271, filed January 29, 2004 and which applications are incorporated herein.

Please insert the Sequence Listing After the Abstract.